

# the chronicle

**RUNNERS TURN  
OUT FOR GREAT  
PUDDING RACE**  
Page 2



**AUTHOR'S  
MEMORIES OF  
CHILDHOOD**  
Page 6



**PASSING ON LIFE  
SKILLS TO  
YOUNGSTERS**  
Page 9



## Schools are celebrating league leap

Children and teachers in Walsall are celebrating after proving to be the most improved in the region in the latest primary league tables.

The borough climbed from 104 to 79 in this year's SATs rankings for Key Stage 2. Top of the table was Pool Hayes Primary in Willenhall. Among the other high achievers in science, English and maths were Watling Street in Brownhills.

It is named with St Joseph's Catholic in Darlaston, which has increased by 22.6 per cent in English since 2008.

Palfrey Junior was named in top 200 most improved schools across the country in the statistics released today.

Altogether the number of schools with 100 per cent reaching Level 4 in science was 10, and in English and maths was three.

There were also smiles at Leamore Primary school for being among one of the top schools in the borough for its SATs results.

Cabinet member for children's services, Councillor Rachel Andrew, said: "These are excellent results which prove that all the hard work by students, teachers, schools and professionals is paying dividends for our young people in Walsall. We are seeing improvements each year."

The progress of the school was recognised after being highlighted as one of the top 10 in Walsall for level four in English, Science and maths.

It was in the top two in the borough for contextual value added, which measures how well a school helps pupils progress while tackling deprivation, ethnicity and gender. The school in Blawith Road has been a pioneer of teaching technology with pupils embarking on a GCSE IT course before even starting secondary education.

Last year it launched its own pupil radio station, Little Monsters Radio. Headteacher David Brownson said he was "absolutely thrilled" with today's announcement.

## Drunk mother jailed for arson at petrol station

A drunk mother who deliberately started a blaze at a Walsall petrol station that could have sparked a massive disaster has been jailed for four years.

Leanne Taylor grabbed a five-litre can of paraffin and poured it over bags of charcoal also for sale on the forecourt of the Jet Garage in Walsall town centre, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Then the 24-year-old set fire to a bag with her lighter. The flames were stamped out before they could take hold and spread to butane gas canisters and petrol pumps.

Prosecutor Mark Rees said: "It burned one bag of charcoal but fortunately the flames spread no further because of the actions of a man who was leaving the garage."

"When the security guard came out of the booth to see what was happening Taylor went to hit him. The police were called and she was abusive. She later

admitted what she had done but had no recollection of events."

The incident happened at 11.30pm on July 19 and was captured by the garage's CCTV cameras, said Mr Rees in court last week. It came less than a month after Taylor had received a suspended jail sentence for affray.

She was seen throwing things around the garage forecourt before picking up the paraffin and emptying it over other items stacked up for sale, the court heard.

Tim Sappwell, defending, said: "She was very drunk at the time. This was compounded by medication she was taking for severe post natal depression."

"She could not believe what had happened until she saw the CCTV film. She admitted that she was the woman in the pictures and was appalled by her behaviour," Taylor, of Dolphin Close, Gosport, Walsall, admitted committing arson while reckless to whether life was endangered.

## 105-year-old town bakery closes 'owing £40,000'

# ARREARS IN RENT SEES BAKER SHUT

A family-run bakery in the heart of Walsall has closed down leaving 19 people out of work after running up rent arrears.

Hollands Craft Bakery in John Street has been forced to close due to owing more than £40,000 in rent. Bosses Howard and Gwen Smith, who are both in their 70s, said they had now lost their life savings of more than £130,000 and were heartbroken to let their workers go so near to Christmas.

Hollands, established 105 years ago, is the second long-standing bakery in Walsall to shut in recent weeks following the collapse of Fletchers Foods Ltd in Stafford Street, which folded after 70 years due to money troubles.

Hollands has been closed since last week after bailiffs moved in and placed a legal notice in the window saying Mr and Mrs Smith owed rent. Grandfather-of-five Mr Smith, aged 75 of Chester Road, Brownhills, said the landlord had asked for £40,000 in rent. Mr Smith said: "There has been a very complicated dispute over rent and we will never open again."

walsallchronicle@  
expressandstar.co.uk

"It is very upsetting for me and the wife, we put our life savings and our hearts and souls into that business."

### Heartbroken

"We have had to put 19 people on the dole just before Christmas. We are heartbroken."

Hollands was based in a former chapel and also operated a popular sandwich shop. The landlord of the building is Brian Lowndes Print Ltd.

Mr Lowndes said: "There is no dispute over rent. It hasn't been paid for 12 months. We have given them plenty of opportunity to pay and have been very patient."

"If they had paid, they would still be open."

With a £250,000 investment, Mr and Mrs Smith, took on the business six years ago from Mr Smith's lifelong friends Frank and John Holland.

Mr Smith said: "We gave up our retirement dreams in Spain to take on the business after Alan died of cancer."

"He was my childhood friend and I wanted to carry on the business he had worked so hard on all of his life."

## Dancers go mob handed



Performers from Walsall Academy of Dance are Amy York, Jordan Sylvestre, Emma Woolley, Hayley Wood, Clare Newton-Sheppard and Chloe Swadkin

Senior pupils at a Walsall dance studio have been in with the mob with performances at a hotel. The group based at Walsall Academy of Dance have been entertaining dinner guests at The Village Hotel, Tempus Drive, with a 1930s theme gangsters and molls set.

The venture is the first contract landed by the teenagers – some of whom represent the Butts Street centre at competition dance festivals. They have been performing at themed parties since November and will continue to over the festive period.

Walsall Academy of Dance principal Christa Collard said: "They are doing 17 shows in total and feel really excited to have the opportunity to represent the school in this way. They range from 14 to 17 and all attend the academy several times a week."

Members are Amy York, Clare Newton-Sheppard, Emma Woolley, Hayley Wood, Chloe Swadkin and Jordan Sylvestre.

## Council will suffer £30m funding cut

Walsall Council will be stripped of almost £30 million in government grants over the next two years. The borough will lose £19.5m of its grants next year.

This is a reduction of 6.6 per cent, and will be followed by £9.7m in 2012.

Across the Black Country and Staffordshire, councils and police will lose more than £188m over the next two years.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird today said he felt it was "inevitable" the reduction in government cash would result in more job losses.

But it was too soon to say how many.

In the rest of the Black Country, Sandwell will see £23.7m come off its grants next year followed by another £11.7m cut the year after that.

Wolverhampton is losing £20.4m and £9.6m the year after taking its annual budget in 2011 to £292m, while Dudley will be stripped of £9.5m in 2011 and £8.3m in 2012.

West Midlands Fire Authority will lose £6.7m, 5.6 per cent of its funding, in 2011 and £2.5m in 2012 and West Midlands Police will see funding fall from £513.8m to £480.3m.

Councils have already been gearing up for major cutbacks.

Walsall is preparing to save £65m over the next three years through more than 400 job losses and the closure of libraries and Darlaston Market.

Pain – page 5

## Art teacher dies in car collision

A former art teacher from Walsall was killed in a road smash which left his car trapped underneath a lorry. Ian Preston, aged 39, was driving his Ford Focus when it hit a parked lorry.

He was head of art at St Francis of Assisi School in Aldridge for six years and was said to be an "inspiration" to students.

He left in January to take up a teaching advisory role in Walsall but maintained close links with the school.

News of his death was broken to the children at the school last week, and tributes left at the scene of the crash in Chester Road, Erdington, described him as an inspiration.

Philomena Mullins, the headteacher of the Erdington Road school, said the pupils were "devastated" by the news. She said: "There are pieces of art inspired by Ian in the school. Every visitor has commented on them."



**Safer Walsall Partnership** would like

to wish you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.



**Safer Walsall Partnership**  
working together for a safer borough







# Rock cafe closes suddenly

A popular bar and nightclub in Walsall town centre has suddenly closed, less than a year after its future was secured.

Chicago Rock Cafe in Lichfield Street was one of the branches saved in April after its parent company went into administration.

But the venue, which recently welcomed chart topping Olly Murs, has now shut unexpectedly.

A failure to renegotiate the lease with the landlord has been blamed for the decision by Atmosphere Bars and Clubs Ltd which runs the chain.

At least 10 jobs have been lost after bosses pulled the plug on the bar which has operated for around a decade.

The building is now being cleared before officially ceasing to trade. Atmosphere Bars and

Clubs chief executive David Crabtree said: "We are disappointed. We have had lots of successful years and have provided a good facility for the people of Walsall. We have been trying to negotiate a new rent level with the landlord which we haven't been able to do. We have decided not to stay on with the current rent levels as we are not making enough money."

More than 1,200 people flocked to a series of festive celebrations at Walsall's oldest place of worship.

Scores of people were at St Matthew's Church for the Cinderella pantomime and a Christmas Memorial Service attracting more than 450 worshippers. Another 350 were at the church Sunday services recently, combined with figures from the Walsall Hospice's Light Up Your Life Service on Monday. St Matthew's rector, the

Rev Colin Gibson, said the weekend brought more than 1,200 through its doors.

Other developments include a new Messy Church project for families unable to get to Sunday services at the hilltop site. It is the latest church to set up the informal worship service featuring art and craft, storytelling and food. The pirate-themed launch event this year attracted 40 adults and children.

# Fat levels in region are highest in EU

Obesity levels in the West Midlands are the highest in Europe, latest figures claim. The statistics from the Association of Public Health Observatories show that the UK is the fattest member of the EU.

The West Midlands has the highest level of obesity in the UK. The survey compared all regions across 27 countries in Europe using 37 health indicators in 2006.

The UK as a whole scored particularly badly on obesity - being the fattest nation of all.

Within the UK it was the West Midlands that had the highest percentage of obese adults at 29 per cent - nearly double the EU average of 14 per cent and much higher than the 19 per cent rate seen in London.

The UK also performs badly on female cancer survival and infant deaths. The UK's female death rates from cancer were also shown to be among the worst in Europe.

But general life expectancy figures in the UK are slightly better than for EU counterparts and the nation also excels at treating heart disease.

The UK's early action on smoking has had a very positive impact on health, the report authors say.

Professor Steve Field of the Royal College of General Practitioners, a practising GP at the Bellevue Medical Centre in inner-city Birmingham, said: "I'm appalled by the figures."

"I feel ashamed as a GP working in the West Midlands that this area has the highest percentage of obese adults in Europe."

"I hope we will be able to do more in the future to get people to take responsibility for their own health."

But Dr Claire Bradford and Professor John Wilkinson, who compiled the report, said the information could help the UK improve its track record.

Dr Bradford said: "This type of data allows us to compare not just between countries but within countries and to look at what is going well and what is not."

# Estate will get CCTV cameras

A Walsall housing estate landlord is to put up 16 CCTV cameras in a £10,000 scheme to combat anti-social behaviour. Yobs are playing loud music from cars late at night, prompting calls to police about the constant nuisance in Freyamon Road, Park Hall estate. The problems have led Steve Healey, landlord of the precinct - which also includes 17 shop units - to agree to the installation of 16 cameras. The equipment would digitally record incidents.

Mr Healey, from Essex-based Metro private investment company, said they could access the footage when complaints are made and take action if necessary.

He said: "We are just sorting the contractors at the moment and hope to get the cameras in place in the next few weeks, but it won't be before Christmas. We are hoping it will put an end to the problem."

Walsall Council's area partnership team, local police, Accord Housing, shop owners and the community have been working together to clamp down on anti-social behaviour in Park Hall for weeks.

Residents' calls for help led the agencies to work together and push for change, and the neighbourhood watch group has agreed to stump up £200 to install signs warning would-be trouble makers the area is under surveillance. Communities chief Councillor Zahid Ali said: "We held several meetings with members of the local community and there was no doubt there has been a significant anti-social behaviour problem in parts of Park Hall."

# Boxing action at Banks's

A programme of boxing action will be held at Banks's Stadium in Walsall. The event will be held on February 24 at the Bescot Crescent venue, along with a performance by comedian Sean Percival. Tickets are £30, or £5 on the door for the boxing only.

# Burglar is sent to jail

A serial burglar who was part of a gang that stole nearly £250,000 of goods from businesses in Walsall has been jailed after handing himself in.

Marc Allsopp, 31, of Westville Road, Walsall, pleaded guilty to burgling four properties.

He also gave police details of 15 other burglaries and thefts to be taken into consideration when he was sentenced.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that on April 11 of this year Allsopp walked into Walsall Police Station and confessed to the crimes, which date from between 2004 and 2006.

Mr Oliver Duncan, defending, said Allsopp's "conscience was pricked" and he decided to turn himself in.

Allsopp, whose partner is due to give birth to his first child in May, will serve 12 months in prison before being released on licence.

Mr Julian Elcock, prosecuting, told the court Allsopp, along with four other men, broke into the four firms in Walsall between March 2005 and January 2006 including Motorsport Wheels, Walsall Kitchens and Bathrooms, Spotwood Images and Clearance Bargains at the Jerome Retail Park.

# Master quizzer

The life and achievements of world quiz champion and Brain of Britain Mark Bythway are being celebrated in a display at Walsall Museum.

The free exhibition in the Your Corner section of the Lichfield Street museum opened will run until January 22.

Mark was born in 1963 and brought up in Walsall Wood. He moved to Swindon but kept close ties with Walsall.

He became Brain of Britain in 2007 and World Quiz Champion in 2008.

# Festive feet fly along for big pudding race



The first of the runners in the 25th Christmas Pudding race get going from Vernon way.



Race winner Mike Aspinall with his medal.



Runners from left Trisha Weston, Jenny Jennings and Herchy Boal get set for the run.



Nine-year-old Grace Pinson-Bradley helped out giving out bottles of water at the water station.

Six hundred people braved slippery conditions to take part in a resurrected fun run in Bloxwich.

Organised by Sneyd Striders, the 25th Christmas Pudding Run took place around Sneyd Community School.

It was the first year of a new flatter route for the event and Tipton Harriers runner Mike

Aspinall, aged 27, of Rose Avenue in Oldbury, was crowned winner, with a time of 51 minutes and 32 seconds.

In the past, competitors had a 10-mile circuit to run but the event did not take place last year after police stopped it over traffic concerns in Warstone Road.

But the introduction of the new

route - which is two laps of a five mile course around the Vernon Way school - allowed it to be resurrected for this year.

Winner Mr Aspinall said: "It was so cold. The first two miles were really slippery, it was like two steps forward three steps back."

People aged from 18 to 70 took part in the race.

**GODLOVES SOLICITORS**

**REPAIR PROBLEMS WITH YOUR LANDLORD?**

- Damp
- Defective windows and doors
- Damp proof plasterwork
- Defective plumbing and leaks etc

Whether you are a Housing Association, Council or private tenant

**WE CAN HELP you to get your property repaired and claim compensation.**

So call us now on  
**FREEPHONE 0800 138 5724**  
**GODLOVES SOLICITORS**

**EVERYONE'S HEADING FOR SPEEDY'S**

**Fantastic Opening Offers...**

**BEAT THE VAT INCREASE**

- ALLOY WHEELS** (New and used)
- FREE TYRE & WINTER CHECKS**
- WHEEL REPAIRS** (Free labour)
- PUNCTURE REPAIRS** from £5

**SPEEDY'S** Est. 1998

**WHEELS & TYRES**

**BEAT THE VAT INCREASE**

**01922 616000** Lichfield Street, Walsall, B79 4JY

[www.speedytyres.co.uk](http://www.speedytyres.co.uk) BRANCHES AT: Burton, Lichfield, Huddersfield

**W. RAYBOULD & SONS LTD**

**Fireplace Factory Outlet**

Specialists in Gas/Electric and Solid Fuel • Gas Side and Heat Installation Service

**New Range of Super Efficient British Made Gas Fires**

**GENUINE PRICES WITH NO HIDDEN EXTRAS**

**COME AND COMPARE OUR PRICES**

CALL IN AND SEE OUR DISPLAY

**Greatalls Close, Bloxwich, Walsall, West Midlands, WS3 2XT**

[www.raybould.co.uk](http://www.raybould.co.uk)

**Tel: (01922) 479196**

**Fax: (01922) 494616**

**OPEN:** Monday-Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm  
Saturday 11am - 4pm  
A.T. MENS H. SUBSAND  
DRIVE COMPLAINTS







## Kennels' disease outbreak

Stray dogs can no longer be taken in by an animal rescue centre in Walsall after an outbreak of an infectious illness.

Councils have been stopped from taking the animals to Rosedene Animal Rescue in Rushall because of the disease among existing dogs.

The Radley Road centre houses about 60 dogs at full capacity, and dog wardens in Sandwell and Dudley deliver strays there to be looked after. Both councils have been forced to suspend the service after news of the illness.

Phil Parker, spokesman for Dudley Council, said: "We have been notified by the vets that Rosedene animal rescue centre is currently not able to take stray dogs because of a report of an infectious illness among the animals."

"We are currently working on alternative kennelling arrangements."

The council has left a message on its website saying it is unable to provide a stray dog collection service, and it is hoped that the disruption will be short-lived and service will, hopefully, be resumed next week.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for safer communities Councillor Derek Rowley said: "We temporarily suspended our stray dog service on Friday and are currently looking for alternative kennels. We hope the service will resume by the end of the week. Via our contact centre, we can pass the details of anyone who calls about a stray dog to K9 Search UK."

## Street vice crackdown

More than 20 prostitutes have been issued with street cautions in the last three months as part of a crackdown on Walsall's vice trade.

Four were arrested and charged with loitering for the purpose of prostitution and one man arrested for soliciting a person for such a reason.

He received a police caution as a total of 23 prostitutes have been given the street cautions since September by police. Hotspot areas in Caldmore, Palfrey and Pleck are being targeted with officers having the powers to confiscate and crush kerb crawlers' cars.

Five were seized in the 18 months prior to last summer with two given back to owners who paid a fine and the other three crushed after drivers refused to pay.

Sgt Richard Jacques, of Caldmore and Palfrey Neighbourhood Police Team, said: "We have had no further vehicles seized but five warnings issued, and it would appear that kerb crawlers are beginning to get the message."

Over the past three months 23 sex workers have been issued street cautions.

## Window into past

A book looking at Victorian times in Walsall through the view of a resident of the time is now available to buy.

Billy Meikle's 'Window on Walsall' includes a series of twelve illustrated articles based on his own writings. It costs £5 from Walsall Local History Centre. Call 01922 721305 for details.

## Company of year delight for Hydratight



From left David Brown (Hydratight), Fraser Coull (RBG Ltd), Gary Burns (Bel Valves), Alex Hayward (Pearson-Harper Ltd) and Bill Abbott (RBG Ltd)

A firm which has its headquarters in Walsall has been named company of the year. Hydratight, which has its HQ in Darlaston, won the accolade at the annual NOF Energy Awards.

The company, which has operations and agents all over the world, was honoured at the NOF Energy annual dinner at

Hardwick Hall in Sedgefield, Co Durham, on December 9.

Hydratight is the world leader in specialist bolting and connection products and engineering services.

Employing 1,000 people in 35 strategic locations, the company claims to set international standards in joint integrity and can provide

bespoke connection and machining solutions.

The company has supplied the international oil, gas, power generation, industrial and aerospace industries for more than 30 years.

Wayne Dennis, commercial director of Hydratight, said: "Winning the Company of the Year Award is a great honour."

## Alarm at hard-sell nuisance

Aggressive electricity salesmen are going door-to-door in Pelsall – with their forceful tactics worrying elderly residents.

Police said they had spoken to the business in question, asking them to speak to the employees about their behaviour.

West Midlands Police said they were legitimate salesmen, but advised concerned residents to contact trading standards officers at Walsall Council.

The salesmen have been in Nest Common, Norton Road and Fingerpost Drive over recent weeks.

Pelsall's Councillor Garry Perry said he had been inundated with calls from worried residents.

"People need to be very careful. These people are being very forceful and won't take 'no' for an answer."

"One resident told me the salesman was badgering him on the doorstep and then all the way down his driveway."

"I think these people are almost as bad as the distraction burglars. It can be very distressing for elderly and vulnerable people to have someone on their doorstep being so aggressive."

Councillor Perry added: "We have had a very bad winter, and people are worried about their energy bills. It is an issue that is playing on people's minds, but I don't want them being bullied into making a decision."

Police said they had contacted the company in question, but would not reveal its name. Spokeswoman Gina Lycett said the sales workers were using hard tactics and anyone with any concerns should contact trading standards.

Walsall Council trading standards department is on 0845 330 3313.

## Heroes helped by concert



Fundraisers Alan Pooler, Margaret O'Callaghan and Anne Langley

Songsters raised a record £2,030 for Help For Heroes at their annual charity concert.

Willenhall Musical Society members said they were delighted with the amount – the most they have ever raised – following the event last month at Pool Hayes Community School, Castle Drive, Willenhall.

The City of Wolverhampton Brass Band were guests at the concert, giving their services free.

Society president Margaret O'Callaghan, who handed over the money last week, said that the choir normally raises money for local charities but, on this occasion, wanted to help an "inspiring" national charity. In the past the choir has helped the

County Air Ambulance, the Coronary After-Care Support Group at New Cross Hospital's heart and lung centre and Cancer Research UK, based at Birmingham University Medical Centre.

The group, which meets weekly for rehearsals at Portobello Methodist Church, New Street, Willenhall, has been raising money for charity since 1993.

The 40-strong choir is on the lookout for new members.

Mrs O'Callaghan said: "We have a young and dynamic new musical director, Justine Clarke, and deputy Matthew Colley and a superb accompanist in Bridget Tate."

"Any new members would receive a very warm welcome."

## Officers chat to shoppers

Bobbies took time out from the beat to set up their own stall at Walsall Market and said the initiative had been a success.

Police officers chatted to townsfolk about problems in their communities and also gave out crime prevention advice.

Officers are manning the market stall at the town centre pitch one day a week throughout December. Each week, they are joined by a different organisation, including the fire service, council, NHS and Walsall Housing Group.

Officers are also giving out purse bells, which can be attached to purses and jingle when they are moved, and help cut purse dipping offences.

Councillor Zahid Ali, chairman of Safer Walsall Partnership, said: "The police in Walsall very much want to be at the heart of the community."

## Calendar sale

A Walsall school's 2011 calendars are now on sale. Shelfield Academy has released the items, which feature artwork from more than 20 students at the Broad Way school, from years 10 to 13.

The glossy calendar costs £2.50 and available from the visitor or student receptions at the school.

Worcester • Vauxhall • Verelli • Glass Works • Band Main • Ideal

### plumbingpoint

**DARLASTON**

Unit E, Alma Estate, Stafford Road, Darlaston, Walsall B81 2SA Tel: 01922 231333

Congratulations to all your local businesses! We will not be beaten!!

<b>BOILERS</b> Comprehensive list of new replacement boilers from £500 Over 100 different models From £100 to £1500 Call 01922 231333 24hr Emergency Service Gas Safe Registered Tel: 01922 231333	<b>BOILERS</b> Comprehensive list of new replacement boilers from £500 Over 100 different models From £100 to £1500 Call 01922 231333 24hr Emergency Service Gas Safe Registered Tel: 01922 231333
---	---

400 Worcester Hwy Office • 1000-1000-1000

Worcester • Vauxhall • Verelli • Glass Works • Band Main • Ideal

### Affordable Tiles at BENTLEY CERAMICS

15 sq m of Gloss or White Wall Tiles  
 2 Sheets of Stone Mosaic 300 x 300  
 2 x 10 litres of Adhesive • 3.5 kg of Grout • Spacers

**£165**

Loads of Stock Must Go... Visit our Showroom Warehouse for Quality Tiles

Unit 6, Birch Lane Business Park, Birch Lane (off Chester Rd.), Monnal. Tel: 01922 488832

191 Wolverhampton Rd, West, Bentley, Walsall WS2 0DU. Tel: 01922 423018



Burn Place Surg,  
Brickyard Road, Aldridge,  
Walsall,  
West Midlands  
WS9 8BN  
Tel: 01922 740 454  
Fax: 01922 743 277

**indigo**  
PRODUCTS LTD

YOUR LOCAL MANUFACTURER AND INSTALLERS FOR  
WINDOWS, DOORS AND CONSERVATORIES

**NOW OPEN TO THE  
TRADE & PUBLIC**

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY WINDOWS  
A/B/C RATED WINDOWS**

- ✓ Buy direct from the manufacturer
- ✓ High Security Locking Systems Available
- ✓ Incorporating Anti-Drip, Anti-Swing & Anti-Pick
- ✓ 5 Day Turnaround
- ✓ Excellent Quality
- ✓ No Minimum Order
- ✓ Package, Time, Labour & Fixings all available
- ✓ Survey Service Available
- ✓ FREE No Obligation Quotation
- ✓ All your glazing needs in a

**ONE STOP SHOP!**  
FITTING SERVICE AVAILABLE

Available in

ELITE 70

Spectus

01922 740 454  
www.indigoproducts.com

FENSA

thechronicle

# Residents move into £16m housing project

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

An established Walsall community has been rejuvenated with more than £16m of new homes.

Walsall Housing Group (WHG) has built 130 homes in Bentley. Part of the investment included £7.5m from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

The properties range from two bedroom bungalows and apartments to four bedroom family houses.

The homes have been built on four sites within walking distance of each other and the final phase of the project – Parsons House – has now been handed over to whg.

Residents have immediately begun to move into the building, which has 60 two bedroom apartments and is exclusively for people aged over 55. Facilities at Parsons House for use by the residents include a lounge and two roof gardens with spectacular views across the Black Country skyline.

## Regeneration

Gary Fulford, chief executive of WHG, said: "It is great to complete work on these four projects and to see the regeneration of the area. Many residents of Parsons House are moving from nearby family homes which will be used to house young families with children."

"The properties have been built to a very high specification and I'm sure the residents will settle into their new surroundings very quickly."

Coleshill-based contractor Frank Haslam Milan (FHM) has worked with WHG on the large scale regeneration project. Managing director Fraser Mercer added: "We are delighted to have handed over Parsons House to WHG and to have played an important part in the rejuvenation of Bentley."

Work to regenerate the four sites began in summer 2008 and has brought four pieces of redundant land back into use. The sites were previously a clinic, vacant garages, a vandalised public house and two blocks of multi-storey flats.

The redevelopment has been funded by whg, the HCA (the national housing and regeneration agency for England) and View, the regeneration fund jointly managed by WHG and Walsall Council.

Christine Seaton, Black Country area manager for the HCA West Midlands, said: "It is fantastic news that this scheme is now complete and the HCA is pleased our investment has enabled these 130 homes to be built, providing much-needed affordable housing in Walsall."



Fraser Mercer, MD of FHM, hands over Parsons House to Carole Wildman, whg director of regeneration and development.



A distant view of Parsons House at night.

## Take good care this winter . . .

Take care of yourself and your family this winter by stocking up your cupboard at home.

We recommend your supplies include:

- paracetamol
- anti-diarrhoea pills
- rehydration mixture
- indigestion treatments
- a thermometer

If you are on a prescription, make sure you have enough supplies to last through the holidays.

**NHS**  
Walsall





## Dipsersal order to combat yobs

Troublemakers who cause nuisance in a neighbourhood on the Walsall and Sandwell border will be moved on when a six-month dispersal order comes into force this month.

Police have secured the order in Pheasey to crackdown on anti-social behaviour across the neighbourhood.

It was granted following consultation with Walsall Council and became active from December 22 and will run until January 22.

The dispersal order allows officers to remove groups of two or more young people between 9pm and 6am. Anyone under 16 found in the area, without an adult or parent supervision can be taken

back to their home. The order follows complaints about groups of young people congregating outside shops, bus shelters and causing general nuisance.

Streets covered include Collingwood Drive, Beacon Road, Doe Bank Lane and surrounding areas.

Sgt Andrew Middleton, from the Streetly and Pheasey neighbourhood team, said: "We have received complaints from local residents and businesses about young people congregating and causing nuisance in and around the Pheasey estate."

"The new dispersal order strengthens our power within the area, which will mean we can disperse groups. We take

anti-social behaviour seriously and hope the new dispersal order will be a very effective addition to our armoury when it comes to dealing with problems of this nature."

A dispersal order was also granted in Bloxwich recently and is proving a success.

The order, which covers the Mossley estate, was granted on November 15 and since then there have been fewer calls from residents reporting anti-social behaviour, which in the past has included gangs egging buildings and burning trees.

Officers from West Midlands Police patrol the streets on a daily basis from 2pm until 10pm.

## Bus fares rising in New Year

Bus fares in the West Midlands will be increased by an inflation-busting 5.8 per cent from January 2.

The announcement has been criticised as "disgusting" by Wolverhampton Councillor Judith Rowley, who sits on the region's transport authority Centre.

The price of a single National Express West Midlands fare will go up from £1.70 to £1.80.

The price of a Daysaver ticket will rise by nearly three per cent, from £3.50 to £3.60.

Bosses said revenue would go towards investing in the region's bus network next year, including the introduction of 120 new vehicles.

Metro fares will also increase under the changes. The cost of an adult Metro Daytripper ticket will go up from £4.40 to £4.50, an increase of 2.27 per cent, while a family Daytripper ticket will go up 5.8 per cent from £8.50 to £9.

## Childhood memories are written down

A pensioner who grew up on a farm in Walsall has turned his childhood memories into a book.

Michael Power was raised on Podger's Farm, which used to be in Gower Street, Walsall.

The 77-year-old has now put his experiences in writing after being prompted by his daughter back in 2005.

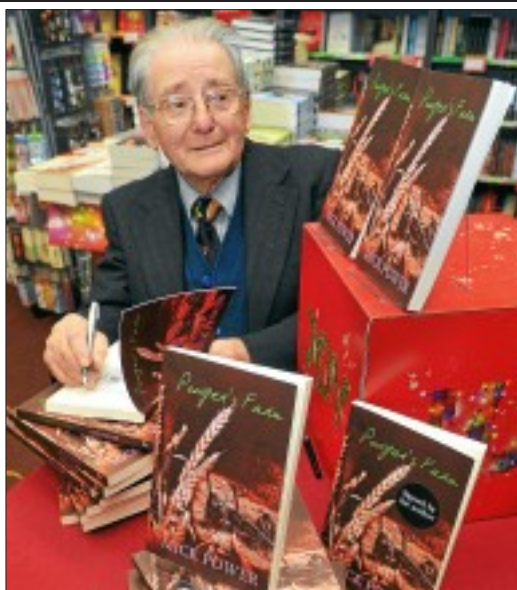
Mr Power, now of St Davids Close, Pelsall, presented the completed book, Podger's Farm, to an audience at Waterstones in Walsall town centre.

"The book has been received really well," said the grandfather-of-three. "People like it because they remember the farm and they know the characters mentioned in it."

"They have said it is a nice, friendly read. A few reviewers have said it is a good example of how to write family history."

Mr Power lived on the farm, which was rented from Walsall Council, between 1934 and 1950.

But in 1950 his family was relocated to Alexander Road. The book costs £6.99 and is available on amazon.co.uk and waterstones.com



Podger's Farm author Mike Power signs copies of his book at Waterstones.

# WALSALL Carpets

## THE SALE STARTS 28th November V.A.T. BUSTING PRICES!

### Laminate Flooring Supplied and Fitted

80/20 Wool Prestige Twist

Was £24.99 sq m

Now £8.99 sq m

Selections Was £18.49 sq m

Now £8.99 sq m

80/20 Thorndon Twist

Was £18.99 Now £9.99 sq m

Stainfree Twist 1/2 price

7 Year Warranty

Bedroom Carpets 10 Colours &

& 5 mtr widths

From £8.75 sq m

Slip Resistant Vinyl

From £4.99 sq m

Carpet  
your  
whole  
house  
From  
£399

## 1000's of Carpets to choose from

100's  
END of  
ROLLS  
at SILLY  
prices!

FITTING WITHIN  
12 HOURS

FREE  
ESTIMATES  
AND FREE  
PARKING

BLINDS  
4 YOU

4 WINDOWS  
FROM £199  
FITTED

PLATINUM  
SERVICE

We will remove your  
old carpets and  
put back your furniture  
Free Estimates and  
Free Planning  
(Terms and conditions apply)

Call us for a FREE Home Visit 7 Days a week

OPENING HOURS

28th, 29th, 30th, 31st December - Open as normal

New Years' Day - 10am - 4pm

2nd Jan 10am - 4pm • 3rd Jan 9am - 4pm

Birchills House  
Industial Estate  
Gosse Lane  
Walsall B12 2LE  
Tel: 01922 644407

48-52 High Road  
Lange Road  
Walsall B12 2LE  
Tel: 01922 644407

20 Beacon Building  
Lange Road  
Walsall B12 2LE  
Tel: 01922 644407

**Walsall Fireplaces**  
**@Traditional Settings**

**2 DAY MEGASALE!**

**Monday 27th December**  
**& Tuesday 28th December**  
**11.00am - 4.00pm**

...including The

**CORINTHIAN**  
**Marble Suite**  
[Excludes fire]

**Only £375**

**+ MANY MORE BARGAINS INSTORE!**

**Ablewell St., Walsall Tel: (01922) 644407**



# WM GARAGE DOORS

[www.wmgaragedoors.co.uk](http://www.wmgaragedoors.co.uk)

## Garage Doors with "Bounce Back Ability"

ABS doors are made from a tough yet flexible material commonly used to make car bumpers, so when it's knocked, the door panel flexes then bounces back as good as new.

Fully bonded steel stiffeners at the rear of all ABS doors reinforce the panel and help protect against forced entry.

If you are looking for a garage door that's going to withstand the knocks and bumps of family life, you need look no further than ABS.

**25% OFF\***  
**+FREE FITTING**  
**ON ORDERS TAKEN**  
**BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

- ✓ Impact and dent resistant white ABS panels.
- ✓ Easy finish, simply wipe down with a soft cloth and warm water.
- ✓ Multi point locking as standard.
- ✓ Ideal for automation.
- ✓ Matches PVCu windows and doors.
- ✓ Strong lightweight construction weighing less than 2/3 of a traditional steel door.
- ✓ UV fast low gloss brilliant white finish guaranteed for 10 years.

\*Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer



SENATOR



PRESIDENT



REGAL



BEDFORD



JACOBEOAN

Impact resistant white ABS garage doors which closely match to white PVCu doors and windows.

*Brass effect handles are supplied as standard.*

**Showroom Address:**  
**Three Crowns**  
**Garden Centre**  
**Sutton Road, Walsall**  
**WS9 0QH**

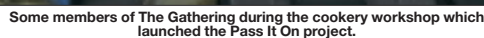
**Tel: 01922 611253**  
**[sales@wmgaragedoors.co.uk](mailto:sales@wmgaragedoors.co.uk)**



walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

## Vulnerable

whg's support for the project has been made possible through the Now programme which is funded by the Big Lottery, NHS Walsall and the Visionary Investment Enhancing Walsall fund.



**PEGASUS MEDICAL**

**Personal Injury Compensation**

Telephone 0800 612 1786



**PEGASUS  
MEDICAL**



# INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT IN THE LAST 3 YEARS AND NOT YOUR FAULT ?

- 100% compensation paid directly to you
- NO WIN NO FEE – you pay nothing
- Quick and easy process  
to register your claim

**Call us today – 0800 612 1786**

or fill in our short claim online form for a  
**FREE assessment of your claim at**  
**[www.pegasus-medical.com](http://www.pegasus-medical.com)**

Pegasus Medical Ltd is regulated by the Ministry of Justice in respect of regulated claims management activities. Its registration is recorded on the website: [www.oiberegulation.co.uk](http://www.oiberegulation.co.uk).  
Authorisation number: OIB/120402.

[illegible]

**Lexcel**  
Solicitors

**waldrons**  
solicitors for compensation

**HAD AN ACCIDENT?**

**100% Compensation**  
+  
**£200 BONUS**  
Payable to You  
on acceptance  
of case by  
Insurer  
+  
**Free Service  
to Clients**

Call Adrian Webb  
and his team  
01922 42 62 42

 ACCIDENT  
INSURANCE

35 Lichfield Street, Walsall, WS1 1UP  
waldrons.co.uk



## Crime rates fall over Christmas

Recorded crime in Walsall town centre over Christmas has fallen by more than 40 per cent over the last four years. Partner organisations who have worked together to tackle the problem are optimistic for a further fall in 2010.

Statistics show there were 179 offences recorded in Walsall town centre last December (2009) compared to 309 offences in the same period in 2006, a drop of 42 per cent - equating to 130 fewer incidents.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) has also dropped with 75 incidents recorded last year compared to 82 in December 2006, an eight per cent decrease.

Safer Walsall Partnerships aim is to ensure all the borough's residents are safe and secure during the festive season.

The partnership is focusing on a range of issues including personal safety, alcohol misuse, safety in the home, taking care on nights out, tackling environmental crime, domestic violence, avoiding food poisoning and not falling into the pitfall of buying fake goods.

The partnership brings together a range of agencies including West Midlands Police, Walsall Council, West Midlands Fire Service, New Horizons, Walsall Housing Group and NHS Walsall to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and a range of environmental issues in our neighbourhoods.

These stories and articles contain key messages from the partnership which I would urge everyone to read in a bid to try and ensure it is a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year for all our residents.

*Councillor Zahid Ali, Chairman of Safer Walsall Partnership*

## Christmas is a time for giving not a time for taking

Christmas is a busy time for many people and Christmas shopping is a major part of many of our lives on the run up to the festive season.

Police in Walsall will be working overtime to ensure your Christmas is crime free with extra support in the busy town centre at peak times.

To ensure you and your family keep safe we have the following common sense festive tips and advice:

- Purse and wallet dipping increase this time of year. Walsall police staff their own market stall in Walsall and Millenial town centre. Why not visit us and collect a purse/wallet safety device.
- Keep your purse in a zipped handbag away from prying eyes and don't keep your wallet in your back trouser pocket.
- Shops, restaurants and pubs will be extra busy so don't leave bags over the back of chairs.
- If you use public transport just be aware of your surroundings and keep bags closed, mobile phones and MP3s out of sight.



## Safety messages via text

Walsall residents can now receive regular community safety messages via text as part of a new service launched by Safer Walsall Partnership.

The text messages cover action which is being taken by the agencies who make up the partnership to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough.

Anyone who signs up to the text message service will receive a number of updates throughout the year. To sign up to the messaging service text the word SAFER followed by your name to 64446. The service is free but joining costs the normal text rate. This is a one-off charge.

## New approach to engaging local residents

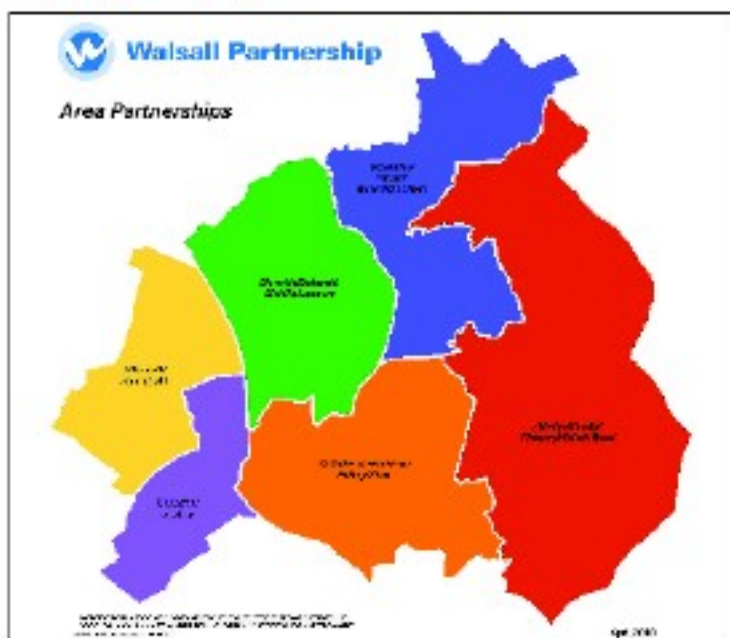
A new approach to engaging residents and ensuring services provided are more responsive to local needs has been launched by Walsall Partnership.

The Area Partnership Scheme aims to engage residents and involve them in how we should be providing our services. It's about bringing people and services together and addressing issues that affect local communities at a neighbourhood level.

Area managers are responsible for six new community areas, which replace the nine Local Neighbourhood Partnerships (LNPs). The map shows how the borough is divided up and gives examples of the work which has been achieved in each area so far.

Councillor Zahid Ali, Walsall Council cabinet member for communities and partnerships, said: "The area partnership approach is a new way of working for us. Community meetings are still important but we are also looking at more innovative ways of engaging with our residents. We want our residents to have a greater say in what the problems in their community are and how they feel these can be resolved to help shape the way issues are tackled by the council and partner agencies working together. The aim of area partnerships is to help people be proud of the moorles and where they live through the 'We asked, you said, we did' approach."

For more information visit the Walsall Partnership website on [www.walsallpartnership.org.uk](http://www.walsallpartnership.org.uk) or call 01922 652029/652234/652237.



### Area 1 - Brownhills, Pelsall, Kestall and Sheffield

- Waste land in Brownhills West to be turned into a football pitch.
- Security improved around play area in Chervell Drive, Brownhills, which was located near a busy main road.
- Run day held in Brownhills West - to improve engagement with young people and raise awareness of Walsall Partnership.
- Theatre group used to raise awareness of fraudsters among older and more vulnerable members of society.

### Area 2 - Aldridge, Streetly, Phoenix and Walsall Wood

- Organised trip for over 50s group to Police Safe House, Brownhills.
- Working groups set up to tackle ASB at various sites in Aldridge and Walsall Wood including Oak Park Leisure Centre.
- Hayhead Wood, Aldridge - action taken to reduce level and offensive behaviour.
- Funding used to buy a surveillance camera for use across the area.

### Area 3 - Blaxley, Blakenall, Birchills and Leamore

- Working group established to tackle issues surrounding scrap merchants.
- ASB issues at Penridge Close Playbuilder site. Youth identified and meeting held with them and their families to discuss their needs.
- Leamore Park - Young Friends of Leamore Park group formed to take ownership of park working towards addressing ASB concerns.
- Green Lane Baptist Church and surrounding shops/car park - partners working together to tackle ASB which includes landscaping around church.
- Moseley Estate - police working with the council ASB team to address various ASB issues in the community.

### Area 4 - St. Matthews, Paddock, Palfrey and Peck

- Park Hall shops - agencies working together to tackle ASB.
- Working group set up to address issue of drugs paraphernalia in town centre.
- Coldmore, Palfrey and Peck - councillors, residents and partners working together to address the impact of sex workers and drug users in residential areas.



**Area 5 - Darlaston and Bentley**

- Clean up around Whitton Street park and youth club to tackle ASB.
- Young people in Bentley invited to highlight issues of concern and how facilities can be improved.
- Consort Drive, Darlaston - partnership work between Walsall Council, British Waterways and Walsall Police to reduce ASB from adjoining towpath.
- Victoria Park, Darlaston - partnership work to reduce ASB.
- Moseley People's Centre - joint support from police, Walsall Housing Group and Walsall Council to support young people's activity sessions in response to an increase in ASB.

**Area 6 - Willenhall and Short Heath**

- Community meeting attended by more than 40 partners and members of the public to discuss ASB.
- Tenbury Close - old fencing replaced as part of joint agency approach to reduce ASB.
- The Square, New Invention - working group set up to tackle ASB in this area.
- Willenhall South - pilot project to tackle underage sale of alcohol.

## Make your night out a night to remember for all the right reasons

It's the winter holidays and there's loads to look forward to: presents, parties, and plenty of booze. That's what Christmas is all about, right? Whilst everyone should have a merry Christmas, it's important to be aware of the dangers of making it just that little too merry. Follow these safer drinking top tips:

- Eat before you drink. It will help limit how fast the alcohol gets into your blood stream.
- Avoid drinking home alone - wait to enjoy drinks whilst out with your friends.
- Drink at our own pace... avoid drinking in rounds as you may well end up drinking more than you intended.
- Consider alternating soft drinks with alcoholic drinks. It will help to lessen the effects the next day and keep you hydrated.
- Keep your drinks with you at all times.
- Stay with friends and get a taxi back together.
- After drinking give your body a break for at least 48 hours to let it recover.

[www.walsallcommunityhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.walsallcommunityhealth.nhs.uk)  
Or search SAME AGAIN WALSALL on YouTube

# SAME AGAIN?

Call Lifestyle Link on  
**01922 444044**

**NHS**  
**Walsall**  
Community Health

## Avoid stress this Christmas

The festive season is upon us and many of you will be out celebrating with friends and family. Yet for others, the Christmas period can be a stressful time.

Walsall Housing Group (wlg) understands this well and provides support for its customers to help ease the added stresses associated with Christmas. For wlg, the quality of community life is as important as the quality of the property in which you live.

Examples of the support available include:-

- Benefits and debt advice
- Mediation services to deal with disputes
- Witness and victim support (including domestic abuse)

Wlg also works closely with its partnership agencies to signpost and help resolve these stressful scenarios not only at Christmas but throughout the year, helping to make Walsall a happier and safer place to live.

To find out more about the support and advice available to wlg customers call 0900 55 5 6666 or visit [www.wlg.uk.com](http://www.wlg.uk.com)



### SaferWalsall Partnership

working together for a safer borough

## Beware of bogus callers over Christmas

Residents in Walsall are being urged to be extra vigilant over the festive season to ensure they do not become victims of doorstep crime.

Walsall Council's Trading Standards officers and Walsall Police are working together to try and reduce the number of crimes committed on people's doorsteps by rogue traders. Rogue traders can involve people offering gardening, drilling and maintenance work, TV aerial repairs as well as people portraying themselves as bogus water, gas or council officials who attempt to trick vulnerable people into letting them into their home.

A Trader Register has been established to which legitimate traders can sign up and promise to demonstrate their commitment to fair and honest trading practices. Although not an approval scheme, Walsall Trader Register seeks to promote reputable businesses in the building and home improvement sector and help residents to avoid falling victim to dodgy, rogue traders.

Councillor Zahid Ali, cabinet member for communities and partnerships at Walsall Council, said: "People need to be extra vigilant over the festive season. People should not leave any Christmas presents on display in their homes and also by not to have a large amount of money in the house. If anyone knocks on your door please make sure you check their identification and if necessary contact the company in question. If in doubt, do not open the door."

For more information or advice contact Consumer Direct on 0845 4040506.

To search for a reliable tradesperson visit [www.TraderRegister.org.uk/Walsall](http://www.TraderRegister.org.uk/Walsall)

## West Midlands Fire Service - So much more than fighting fires

Most people associate West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) with simply fighting fires but in Walsall their role is far more wide reaching.

WMFS sits on various partnerships including Walsall Partnership, Safer Walsall Partnership and the Road Casualty Reduction Team. There are officers dedicated to arson prevention and anti-social behaviour and a cycle team who regularly go out to investigate fly tipping, abandoned vehicles and void buildings as well as engaging with young people.

The fire service also operates in an educational capacity, for example there is a crash vehicle which we take to events to bring the dangers of driving to life.

All of the borough's four fire stations - Walsall, Aldridge, Blaxwich and Willenhall work alongside young people through groups such as the Young Firefighters Association, FIRE programmes and family learning projects. As part of this work the young people, mainly aged between 11 and 18, undertake training similar to that of a working firefighter before graduating in a passing out parade in front of their parents and dignitaries.

The service also runs an active schools programme providing education around fire safety, road safety and most recently around fitness and obesity with its Multi Activity Sports Club.





## LETTERS

# Not apathetic dogowners, but pathetic communication

Dear Sir,  
Re: Apathy on dog fines bid.  
Walsall Chronicle Dec. 09

If Council chiefs were really intent on obtaining opinions from dog walkers before potentially making them criminals for breaking proposed new restrictions, they would surely have used proper opinion research methods.

As it is, they hung an A4 notice on the fence by the gate, where most people entering the Arbore-

tum extension to walk their dogs missed it.

I have no knowledge of what method of communication was employed elsewhere, but I saw nothing at the entrance to Aldridge airport, nor Barr Beacon which are also favourite spots to let the dog have a run.

So for apathy on the part of the public, you should substitute "pathetic" on the attempt at public communication by the council.

## Carers are missing out on £840m in allowances

Dear Sir,

New Carers UK estimates show that as many as 300,000 people in the UK who are caring for ill or disabled loved ones, unpaid, may be missing out on a total of £840m in Carer's Allowance.

They aren't being given information on what support they can claim and many don't see themselves as carers, but as mothers, sons, partners and friends looking after ill or disabled loved ones. As a result, they miss out on support and end up caring round the clock with a break, and struggling to pay even basic food and heating bills.

Our economy and public services rely heavily on the support

provided by carers, which has been valued at a staggering £87 billion per year.

Our whole society can play a part in helping carers in return. We all know a friend or family member who is caring for an ill, frail or disabled loved one.

Carers UK is calling on everyone to take a few minutes today to check that any carers they know are getting support.

We have produced a free Carers Rights Guide, available through the Carers UK website ([www.carersuk.org](http://www.carersuk.org)) or by calling our CarersLine on 0808 808 7777.

Imelda Redmond CBE  
Chief Executive,  
Carers UK

A fine of £1,000 and a criminal record for letting your dog have a run?

What next to deprive us of our freedom?

Anthony Harris and Co need their claws clipped. Soon, the Arboretum will be empty of dog walkers because we shall all be in Sutton Park, where the our pet dogs can run freely and get proper exercise.

Ron Binnington,  
Park Hall.

## Keeping the church spire

Dear Sir,

Re: Demolition of Mellish Road Church - Retention of the Tower and Spire. We believe the tower and spire belonging to Mellish Road Church, sited as it is at one of the gateways to the town, should be retained on site.

Permitting the demolition of this building is a significant defeat for the borough in its struggle to retain some semblance of its heritage, also for the local community which has argued about the condition of this building for a great many years to little effect. Any development of the site should include a provision that the tower and spire be retained.

J. French,  
Acting Secretary  
Walsall Civic Society

## Library figures don't add

Dear Sir,

Re: Bloxwich refurbished library, and in particular the large reduction in the number of books which are available.

I fail to see how Councillor Anthony Harris's statement that 6,000 books were borrowed during the first week of reopening can possibly be true.

As the library is only opened for five days, then 1,200 books a day must have been borrowed, if an average of three books per person are taken - then 400 people a day would have visited the library.

As the usual number of borrowers at any one time appears to be between 6 and 8 people the figures cannot add up, and I doubt very much that 6,000 books could be accommodated on the shelves available.

I would recommend that disappointed Bloxwich borrowers visit Aldridge library where a good selection of books are available.

G Thomas,  
Bloxwich.

## Labouring the point over extent of UK representation in EU parliament

Dear Sir,

Re: Mr Bennett, letters, November 11.

He labours his point about the extent of UK representation in the EU parliament. In fact, each member country is allocated a number of MEPs in proportion to its population.

Mrs Bristow (on the same page) calls for withdrawal of the UK from Europe, mentioning the internment of a young man in Greece, who seemingly has no hope of a fair trial. This case seems to me to highlight faults in the Greek legal system, not the

EU's. As for people being beaten up by police, EU human rights legislation expressly forbids this sort of activity.

With regard to the fifty or so other UK citizens in jail (presumably in EU countries, she does not make that clear), if Mrs. Bristow had a close relative imprisoned in a foreign country, would she prefer that that country had no legal links to hers, or that its legal system was closely related to our own?

Mr. Lenton, letters November 18 refers to the physical mistreatment of UKIP MEP Nikki

Sinclair when she attempted to unfurl a banner in the EU parliament building. Ms Sinclair claims she was badly treated by leaders of her own party in being removed as a UKIP MEP.

According to Ms. Sinclair, all this may be linked to her stated dissatisfaction with her party's links to right wing groups. Again, EU employment and human rights legislation is available in these sort of cases. I of course cannot judge either of these accusations, not having all the facts.

David Clenton,  
Pelsall.

## Thank to all of you who volunteered

Dear Sir,

A huge thank you goes out to the 70,000 people that took part in this year's CSV Make a Difference Day. On October 30 a record breaking number of people baked pumpkin pies for the elderly, made cupcakes for homeless people, planted bulbs in community parks, knitted hats for pre-mature babies and litter picked in their local high street.

Gordon Brown, David Blunkett and other MPs across the country swapped the floor of Westminster for the shop floor of their local Barnardo's shop. I spent time with volunteers planting trees and shrubs in preparation for winter.

There's more to come. Make volunteering your new year's resolution! Dig out your garden spades and support CSV Action Earth in spring 2011. For more information for CSV Action Earth; visit [www.csv.org.uk/actionearth](http://www.csv.org.uk/actionearth)

Pete Waterman  
CSV Action Earth,

## Chance to help the planet's resources

Dear Sir,

I want to let your readers know about a new online initiative to inspire the public to come up with new

ideas to help the environment. We believe the project will really resonate with the people of Walsall. Open Planet Ideas challenges people to find new ways to use technology to help preserve our planet's natural resources.

The winning idea will be developed by Sony engineers. So log onto [www.openplanetideas.com](http://www.openplanetideas.com) to get involved. Dax Lovegrove, WWF UK.

Do you have something to say? Then write to Walsall Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES or email [walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk). Letters are published at the editor's discretion and may be edited. All letters and emails must include a full name, address and contact number.

Walsall's Premier Kitchen Facelift Company

# BEAT THE VAT INCREASE

ORDER NOW FOR JAN 2011 AND GET FREE FITTING

Choose from 100's of styles and colours

NO Pushy salesmen  
NO Hidden extras  
Fully inclusive price  
Friendly experienced staff  
Fully insured fitters  
Established local business

Kitchen Lost It's Sparkle... just change the doors

- SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT
- Doors...made to measure
- Additional Units... if required
- Worktops... find your perfect style
- Sinks and Taps... choose your style

AS FEATURED ON **ITV 1**

75 SEEDS IN 100'S

60 MINUTE SERVICE

Made in Britain

FSB MEMBER

10 YEARS

[www.dreamdoorsltd.co.uk](http://www.dreamdoorsltd.co.uk)

## DREAM DOORS

The UK's Premier Kitchen facelift company

Check us out at [www.checkatrade.com](http://www.checkatrade.com)

For a FREE brochure or to arrange a no-obligation survey, call now on:

Tel No: 01922 455568

Visit our Showroom at:

14 Beacon Buildings, Leighwood Road, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8AA

**Mark Smith** <sup>17</sup>

## Digital Aerials

WALSALL

# £20 OFF

with this advert  
One voucher per installation  
on a new aerial system

DIGITAL AND FREEVIEW AERIALS  
REPAIRS • TUNING • MULTIROOMS  
Established Over 25 Years

OAP Discount  
Free Quotations

Freeview freesat

A Local Business You Can Trust  
OPEN 7 DAYS

# 01922 500017

## DIGITAL AERIALS

from Rapid Aerials

£20 OFF  
WITH THIS ADVERT  
ON NEW AERIAL SYSTEMS  
(one per household)  
OFFER MUST END SOON

10% Discount for OAPs  
Free Call Out/Free Estimates

Same Day Service, Plasma/LCD  
Wall Brackets, Supplied + Fitted

Digital Aerials Fitted  
Free Home Specialists

Call Rapid Aerials today on

# 01922 693047



# W.S. FURNISHINGS

## Beat the VAT order today!

Pay a small deposit to secure your order today

### Stockists of Sherbourne Restwell Repose TCS Lift and Rise Chairs



**Sovereign**  
ortho memory  
4ft 6in divan set  
**ONLY**  
**£279.99**



**Serenity 3000**  
packed 4ft 6in divan set  
Was £899.99  
**SALE PRICE**  
**£499.99**



**Brittany**  
4ft 6in 4-drawer divan set  
Was £299.99  
**SALE PRICE**  
**£249.99**



**New to store**  
**Venus**  
100 pocket divan set  
with Abbe Vero  
**SALE PRICE**  
**£299.99**



**Ortho Deluxe**  
4ft 6in 2-drawer special  
**STILL ONLY**  
**£199.99**  
Limited stock



**Memory plus**  
4ft 6in  
1800 Pocket Memory  
Top quality at low price  
**ONLY**  
**£499.99**

### Merry Christmas to All Customers Old and New



**Bedroom Collections**  
in Walnut  
**50% off**  
**display**



**Bedroom**  
collection  
in white  
**Top quality**



**Rio**  
bedroom  
collection  
in oak



**High gloss**  
bedroom  
collection in  
Black & White  
**10% off**



**Celine 3+1+1**  
top quality  
suite with  
**25% off**



**Kensington**  
3+1+1 top  
quality suite  
with  
**25% off**



**Nicole 3+1+1**  
fabric suite  
Top quality  
with  
**20% off**



**Rutland 3+1+1**  
fabric suite  
in top quality fabrics  
**Only £1499.99**  
+ Free arm caps worth  
£180 per set



**Caprice**  
full reclining suite in black  
or brown faux leather  
**SALE PRICE**  
**£1299.99**



**The Royal Suite**  
This very popular suite  
**STILL ONLY**  
**£899.99**



**The Newbury**  
2+1+1 Cottage  
suite  
Was £1199.99  
**Now £999.99**  
DISPLAY MODEL - 1 ONLY



**Woodstock**  
2+1+1  
full reclining suite in  
burgundy Italian leather  
**ONLY**  
**£1499.99**  
1 ONLY



**Sherbourne**  
2 seater settee + 1 x  
manual recliner + electric  
lift & riser recliner  
**Only £1999.99**  
1 SET ONLY



**Large**  
selections  
of easy  
chairs in  
stock



Over 40 different models of riser recliners in  
stock + matching suites to go with them



**Royal Cabinet**  
ranges  
**10% off**  
display models



**Province range**  
in solid oak  
**10% off**  
display models



**Windsor range**  
in golden oak  
with  
**10% off**

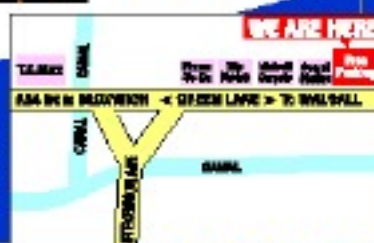
#### Opening Times

10.30-4.00 27th Dec  
10.30-5.00 28th Dec  
10.30-5.00 29th Dec  
10.30-5.00 30th Dec  
10.00-4.00 31st Dec  
New Year's Day Closed  
January Sale  
Starts Sunday 2nd  
10.30-4.00

### WE CAN REMOVE YOUR OLD SUITE

Free Phone

# 0800 1975419



Map for information purposes only

Walsall's Largest Independent Furniture Store

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



# Those we said goodbye to in 2010



Teddy Pendergrass



Ray Alan



Gary Coleman



Dennis Hopper



Harry Carpenter



Christopher Cazenove



Sir John Dankworth



Michael Foot



Tom Bosley



Dick Francis



Lena Horne



Lynn Redgrave



Jean Simmons



Leslie Nielsen



Alex Higgins



Cyril Smith



Tony Curtis



Sir Norman Wisdom

## Loveable fool Norman lost

This year we said goodbye to one of the great talents from the heyday of the British film industry, Sir Norman Wisdom. The acting dynasty of the Redgraves was hit again with the death of Lynn whose first major film role was as Georgy Girl.

Hollywood legends Jean Simmons, Dennis Hopper and Tony Curtis also died.

Simmons will perhaps be best remembered for her role alongside Kirk Douglas in Spartacus and Hopper's career spanned almost 50 years. He became regarded as one of

the truly great talents of cinema while Curtis had starred in some of the most memorable films of all time not least of which was Some Like It Hot.

Boxing fans were saddened by the demise of Harry Carpenter who covered some of the biggest fights in the sport and who will always be associated with Frank Bruno and his catchphrase "Know wharramean 'arry."

Also gone from the sporting arena was the mercurial Alex "Hurricane" Higgins whose rapid style of play revolutionised the game.

It was a bad year for the literary world too with the deaths of Dick Francis and JD Salinger who will forever be associated with the death of John Lennon through his book Catcher in the Rye.

From the world of politics the year said goodbye to former Labour leader Michael Foot and larger than life Liberal MP Cyril Smith famous.

The arena of music had its share of losses too with jazz singer Lena Horne, soul singer Teddy Pendergrass and musician Sir John Dankworth.

Danny Farragher



Claire Rayner



Simon MacCorkindale

# For the biggest **Sale** this winter Visit autumn leaves furniture

**Sale**

Starts boxing day 10am

**TL** autumn leaves  
furniture

[www.autumnleavesfurniture.co.uk](http://www.autumnleavesfurniture.co.uk)

Unit 1 Walsall road, Walsall wood  
Walsall WS9 9AH  
On the A461- 100yds from  
Barons court hotel  
Tel: 01922 454 454

[www.autumnleavesfurniture.co.uk](http://www.autumnleavesfurniture.co.uk)



**christmas**  
**Opening times**  
**10am-4pm**  
**Every day**







# SALE • SALE • SALE

**DOORS OPEN 10AM 26TH DEC - 1ST COME - 1ST SERVED**

## Heavy Contract Carpet at Incredible Prices

**was**  
~~£25~~  
**per mtr**

**NOW**

£3

**Carpet a ROOM**

**for only**

**£39**

**Carpet a HOUSE**

**for under**

**£200**

per mtr

# MAJOR STORE REFIT

**Check the Thickness!**



**100's Roomsized pieces from £19 each**

**HURRY BEAT**  
The January increase in **VAT**

**Gold Home Service**

First we send an experienced estimator with a range of samples. Then we send TWO fitters who will move your furniture, fit & remove your old carpets. The ideal service for elderly or disabled customers - & anyone who needs that little bit extra help!

**FREE Home Visits**  
We Design, Plan & Estimate 7 Days a Week - and we bring samples to your home - Call us!

**SALE STARTS 26TH DEC 10am**

**FREE BRONZE UNDERLAY**

We will give you FREE Bronze underlay with this voucher when you order carpet from us!

Simply present this voucher at time of purchase. £100 minimum spend is applicable. Underlay supplies are available. Valid until end of December 2010.



**ALL STOCK MUST GO! Over 100 Rolls & Remnants**



**Lots of Quality Wilton remnants and roll stocks**



**We have Styles to suit all tastes and budgets to suit all pockets**



**CARPET ROLL SALES**

**Day Street, Walsall WS2 8EJ**

Next to the Leather Museum

**01922 621800**

**CANNOCK BRANCH:** Walsall Road, Bridgtown WS11 0JH 01543 431322

**WALSALL OPENING**  
26.12, 27.12 Dec 10am-4pm  
27.12 Dec 9.30am-4.30pm  
31.12 Dec 10am-4pm  
1.1.2.1 Jan 10am-4pm  
4.1 Jan 9.30am-5.30pm  
Tel: 01922 621800

All photographs are for reference purposes only.



# BedStore&More

The big store for beds and more

**15% OFF\***

Until the 24th!

Beds, Bedroom Furniture and  
Fitted Bedrooms when you  
spend over £1000



Featuring these great brands...



The world's favourite bed



SCHREIBER



Every body deserves one



...and much MORE!

Find us in  
**HOMEbase**  
Chester Road, B73 5BA

**BedStore&More**  
The big store for beds and more

\*Maximum 15% off selected every day goods. Excludes installation, replacement, and all Bed Store and Homebase products, staff uniforms and damaged goods. Delivery is not included. Offer valid from Thursday 9th December until Friday 24th December 2010 on qualifying purchases. Discount does not apply to orders placed by phone. To qualify, purchases must be made in full in the power of the store and not via homebase.co.uk. All applicable offers and promotional discounts are correct at the time of going to press, but may be subject to availability.

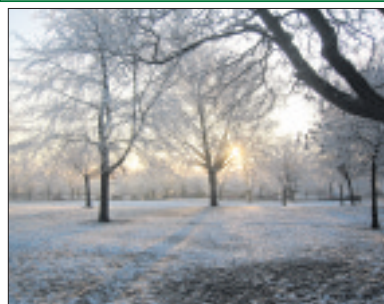


# snappers claim to frame



The frosted trees stand out against the blue of the sky on the common.

This week's Christmassy scenes were all taken on Pelsall Common by Tracey Harman of Sheffield, Walsall who has captured the green space wearing its wintry coat during the recent cold spell.



The trees casting long shadows over the common.

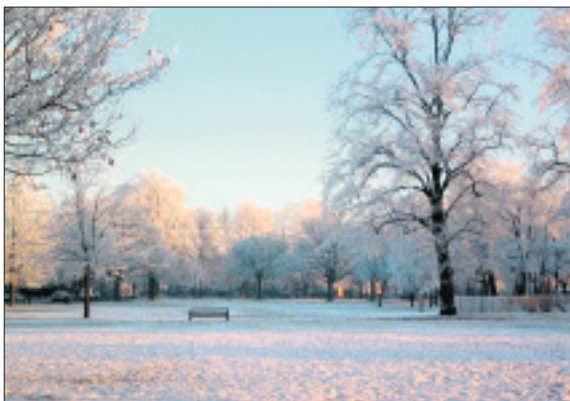
## Snapshots of life in the borough

Are you a snazzy snapper, a lord of the lens or diva of the digital print? Think you can do better than these pictures, if you can why not share your snaps of the borough?

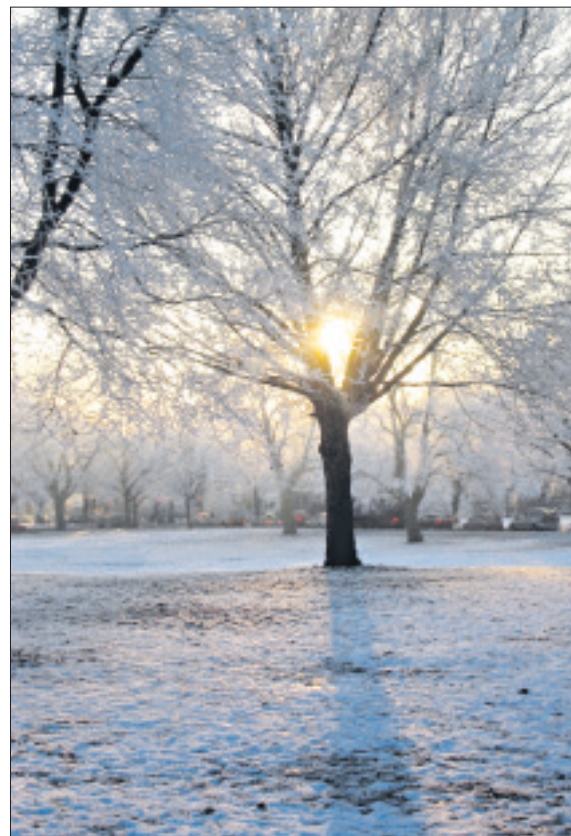
There is no limit on the age or the subject all we ask is that they be as sharp and clear as possible and must be of reasonable quality for publication and of course feature some area or aspect of Walsall and its life.

Send them in with your name, address and contact number and a brief description of what the picture shows.

Also we would like to hear about any interesting tales or stories attached to the photograph. Send them in either as a hard copy or electronically and we will do the rest. So get those cameras snapping, dig out those dusty old albums and send them to: **Snappers Claim to Frame, Walsall Chronicle, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES** or email them to [walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk).



A lone bench stands out on the wide open space.



The sunrise coming up between the bows of a tree.



**BUFFET ISLAND**  
Chinese Restaurant

Wishing All Our  
Customers a Happy  
Christmas and a  
Prosperous New Year

[www.buffet-island.com](http://www.buffet-island.com)



475 Tyburn Road, Erdington, B'ham B24 8DX  
**0121 382 8382**



Queslett Road, Birmingham, B43 7TN  
**0121 366 6028**



# HUGE NEW YEAR CLEARANCE SALE

**STARTS 26th DECEMBER**



**HUGE  
SAVINGS**  
on leather sofas

Large selection of fabric sofas on Display  
Corner Sofas on Display  
Corner sofas or 3+2+1's  
**ALL IN STOCK FOR  
NEXT DAY DELIVERY**

**LARGE SELECTION  
OF QUALITY  
WARDROBES  
IN STOCK**

UP TO  
**75%**  
OFF

Stainfree TWIST .....	£2.99 Yd <sup>2</sup>
Hardwearing Berbers .....	£2.49 Yd <sup>2</sup>
Wool Berbers .....	£3.99 Yd <sup>2</sup>
100% Wool Carpets .....	£4.99 Yd <sup>2</sup>
Stainfree Saxony's .....	£4.75 Yd <sup>2</sup>
Heavy Domestic .....	£5.99 Yd <sup>2</sup>
Luxury Saxony's .....	£5.99 Yd <sup>2</sup>
Supreme Wiltons .....	£4.89 Yd <sup>2</sup>



**OVER 500  
REMnants  
ON DISPLAY**

**HUNDREDS OF CARPETS TO CHOOSE FROM  
ALL IN STOCK VINYL FLOOR HALF PRICE**



**HUGE Display of laminate floors IN STOCK**

4V Groove flooring **ONLY £5.98m<sup>2</sup>**

**HUGE REDUCTIONS across  
the BALTERIO RANGE**

**UNBEATABLE PRICES  
GUARANTEED**

Single Frames from .....	£39
Luxury 1,000 pocket spring 5' 4 Drawer Divans .....	£299
ORTHOPAEDIC 4'6" Beds .....	£115
Leather 4'6" Beds .....	£159

**METAL & WOOD  
ALSO IN STOCK**



**PLUS  
GUARANTEED  
NEXT DAY  
CARPET FITTING**

**SALE STARTS  
BOXING DAY**

**HUGE FREE CAR  
PARK AT REAR**



94 Cape Hill, Smethwick, Birmingham B66 2PH

9am - 6pm daily

FREE CAR PARK

Open 7 days a week

0121 616 0000

0121 616 0000

0121 616 0000

Perry Barr Retail Park, 26 Kingsbury Road,

Perry Barr, Birmingham B44 6AA

0121 616 0000

0121 616 0000

0121 616 0000

0121 616 0000

0121 616 0000













## Monday

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

## Tuesday

[illegible]

**BBC2** 8.30 *Crashing* 7.30 *Comic* 8.30  
*Great British Railway Journeys* 8.30  
*Caravan Into The Pasture* 9.00 *Male And Female*  
 9.15 *Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway* 9.30  
*Worship For Children* 9.45 *Big Bang: The Fall*  
 of the Roman Empire 10.00 *Holocaust* (three  
 parts) Also *Survivor* 9.00 *Escape to the*  
*Country* 9.00 *The Virgin Woods* 9.00 *Surv*  
 9.30 *East End* 9.30 *First Love* 9.30 *2000*  
*Biographical* period drama, starring *James*  
*McAvoy* 9.30 *Survivor* 9.30 *Survivor* 9.30  
*The Good Life* 9.30 *The Good Life* 9.30  
*The Good Life* 9.30 *The Good Life* 9.30  
*The Good Life* 9.30 *The Good Life* 9.30  
*The Good Life* 9.30 *The Good Life* 9.30  
*The Good Life* 9.30 *The Good Life* 9.30

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

## Wednesday

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Channel 3	5:00P	UNIVERSITY OF
	7:00P	7:30P
Family Week with Filmmaker (PG) 11:05P		
PG-13 Comedy (PG) 12:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
Black: Lessons in Dialect (PG) 12:35P	PG-13 Comedy	
College (PG) PG-13 Comedy (PG) 1:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
Myers and McKenzie Popcorn 2:25P	PG-13 Comedy	
2:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
3:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
3:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
4:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
4:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
5:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
5:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
6:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
6:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
7:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
7:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
8:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
8:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
9:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
9:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
10:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
10:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
11:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
11:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
12:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
12:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
1:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
1:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
2:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
2:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
3:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
3:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
4:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
4:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
5:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
5:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
6:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
6:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
7:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
7:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
8:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
8:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
9:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
9:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
10:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
10:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
11:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
11:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
12:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
12:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
1:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
1:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
2:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
2:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
3:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
3:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
4:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
4:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
5:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
5:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
6:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
6:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
7:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
7:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
8:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
8:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
9:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
9:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
10:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
10:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
11:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
11:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
12:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
12:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
1:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
1:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
2:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
2:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
3:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
3:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
4:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
4:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
5:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
5:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
6:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
6:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
7:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
7:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
8:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
8:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
9:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
9:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
10:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
10:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
11:00A	PG-13 Comedy	
11:30A	PG-13 Comedy	
12:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
12:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
1:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
1:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
2:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
2:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
3:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
3:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
4:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
4:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
5:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
5:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
6:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
6:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
7:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
7:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
8:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
8:30P	PG-13 Comedy	
9:00P	PG-13 Comedy	
9:30P	PG-13 Comedy	

**Thursday**[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

## Friday

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

**Channel 4** 5:25 **Get Out** (R) 4:30  
 5:35 **THE GOOD** (R) 5:45 **THE**  
 5:50 **THE** (R) 6:00 **THE** (R) 6:10  
 6:15 **THE** (R) 6:25 **THE** (R) 6:35  
 6:40 **THE** (R) 6:50 **THE** (R) 7:00  
 7:05 **THE** (R) 7:15 **THE** (R) 7:25  
 7:30 **THE** (R) 7:40 **THE** (R) 7:50  
 7:55 **THE** (R) 8:05 **THE** (R) 8:15  
 8:20 **THE** (R) 8:30 **THE** (R) 8:40  
 8:45 **THE** (R) 8:55 **THE** (R) 9:05  
 9:10 **THE** (R) 9:20 **THE** (R) 9:30  
 9:35 **THE** (R) 9:45 **THE** (R) 9:55  
 10:00 **THE** (R) 10:10 **THE** (R) 10:20  
 10:25 **THE** (R) 10:35 **THE** (R) 10:45  
 10:50 **THE** (R) 11:00 **THE** (R) 11:10  
 11:15 **THE** (R) 11:25 **THE** (R) 11:35  
 11:40 **THE** (R) 11:50 **THE** (R) 12:00  
 12:05 **THE** (R) 12:15 **THE** (R) 12:25  
 12:30 **THE** (R) 12:40 **THE** (R) 12:50  
 12:55 **THE** (R) 1:05 **THE** (R) 1:15  
 1:20 **THE** (R) 1:30 **THE** (R) 1:40  
 1:45 **THE** (R) 1:55 **THE** (R) 2:05  
 2:10 **THE** (R) 2:20 **THE** (R) 2:30  
 2:35 **THE** (R) 2:45 **THE** (R) 2:55  
 3:00 **THE** (R) 3:10 **THE** (R) 3:20  
 3:25 **THE** (R) 3:35 **THE** (R) 3:45  
 3:50 **THE** (R) 4:00 **THE** (R) 4:10  
 4:15 **THE** (R) 4:25 **THE** (R) 4:35  
 4:40 **THE** (R) 4:50 **THE** (R) 5:00  
 5:05 **THE** (R) 5:15 **THE** (R) 5:25  
 5:30 **THE** (R) 5:40 **THE** (R) 5:50  
 5:55 **THE** (R) 6:05 **THE** (R) 6:15  
 6:20 **THE** (R) 6:30 **THE** (R) 6:40  
 6:45 **THE** (R) 6:55 **THE** (R) 7:05  
 7:10 **THE** (R) 7:20 **THE** (R) 7:30  
 7:35 **THE** (R) 7:45 **THE** (R) 7:55  
 8:00 **THE** (R) 8:10 **THE** (R) 8:20  
 8:25 **THE** (R) 8:35 **THE** (R) 8:45  
 8:50 **THE** (R) 9:00 **THE** (R) 9:10  
 9:15 **THE** (R) 9:25 **THE** (R) 9:35  
 9:40 **THE** (R) 9:50 **THE** (R) 10:00  
 10:05 **THE** (R) 10:15 **THE** (R) 10:25  
 10:30 **THE** (R) 10:40 **THE** (R) 10:50  
 10:55 **THE** (R) 11:05 **THE** (R) 11:15  
 11:20 **THE** (R) 11:30 **THE** (R) 11:40  
 11:45 **THE** (R) 11:55 **THE** (R) 12:05  
 12:10 **THE** (R) 12:20 **THE** (R) 12:30  
 12:35 **THE** (R) 12:45 **THE** (R) 12:55  
 1:00 **THE** (R) 1:10 **THE** (R) 1:20  
 1:25 **THE** (R) 1:35 **THE** (R) 1:45  
 1:50 **THE** (R) 2:00 **THE** (R) 2:10  
 2:15 **THE** (R) 2:25 **THE** (R) 2:35  
 2:40 **THE** (R) 2:50 **THE** (R) 3:00  
 3:05 **THE** (R) 3:15 **THE** (R) 3:25  
 3:30 **THE** (R) 3:40 **THE** (R) 3:50  
 3:55 **THE** (R) 4:05 **THE** (R) 4:15  
 4:20 **THE** (R) 4:30 **THE** (R) 4:40  
 4:45 **THE** (R) 4:55 **THE** (R) 5:05  
 5:10 **THE** (R) 5:20 **THE** (R) 5:30  
 5:35 **THE** (R) 5:45 **THE** (R) 5:55  
 6:00 **THE** (R) 6:10 **THE** (R) 6:20  
 6:25 **THE** (R) 6:35 **THE** (R) 6:45  
 6:50 **THE** (R) 7:00 **THE** (R) 7:10  
 7:15 **THE** (R) 7:25 **THE** (R) 7:35  
 7:40 **THE** (R) 7:50 **THE** (R) 8:00  
 8:05 **THE** (R) 8:15 **THE** (R) 8:25  
 8:30 **THE** (R) 8:40 **THE** (R) 8:50  
 8:55 **THE** (R) 9:05 **THE** (R) 9:15  
 9:20 **THE** (R) 9:30 **THE** (R) 9:40  
 9:45 **THE** (R) 9:55 **THE** (R) 10:05  
 10:10 **THE** (R) 10:20 **THE** (R) 10:30  
 10:35 **THE** (R) 10:45 **THE** (R) 10:55  
 11:00 **THE** (R) 11:10 **THE** (R) 11:20  
 11:25 **THE** (R) 11:35 **THE** (R) 11:45  
 11:50 **THE** (R) 12:00 **THE** (R) 12:10  
 12:15 **THE** (R) 12:25 **THE** (R) 12:35  
 12:40 **THE** (R) 12:50 **THE** (R) 1:00  
 1:05 **THE** (R) 1:15 **THE** (R) 1:25  
 1:30 **THE** (R) 1:40 **THE** (R) 1:50  
 1:55 **THE** (R) 2:05 **THE** (R) 2:15  
 2:20 **THE** (R) 2:30 **THE** (R) 2:40  
 2:45 **THE** (R) 2:55 **THE** (R) 3:05  
 3:10 **THE** (R) 3:20 **THE** (R) 3:30  
 3:35 **THE** (R) 3:45 **THE** (R) 3:55  
 4:00 **THE** (R) 4:10 **THE** (R) 4:20  
 4:25 **THE** (R) 4:35 **THE** (R) 4:45  
 4:50 **THE** (R) 5:00 **THE** (R) 5:10  
 5:15 **THE** (R) 5:25 **THE** (R) 5:35  
 5:40 **THE** (R) 5:50 **THE** (R) 6:00  
 6:05 **THE** (R) 6:15 **THE** (R) 6:25  
 6:30 **THE** (R) 6:40 **THE** (R) 6:50  
 6:55 **THE** (R) 7:05 **THE** (R) 7:15  
 7:20 **THE** (R) 7:30 **THE** (R) 7:40  
 7:45 **THE** (R) 7:55 **THE** (R) 8:05  
 8:10 **THE** (R) 8:20 **THE** (R) 8:30  
 8:35 **THE** (R) 8:45 **THE** (R) 8:55  
 9:00 **THE** (R) 9:10 **THE** (R) 9:20  
 9:25 **THE** (R) 9:35 **THE** (R) 9:45  
 9:50 **THE** (R) 10:00 **THE** (R) 10:10  
 10:15 **THE** (R) 10:25 **THE** (R) 10:35  
 10:40 **THE** (R) 10:50 **THE** (R) 11:00  
 11:05 **THE** (R) 11:15 **THE** (R) 11:25  
 11:30 **THE** (R) 11:40 **THE** (R) 11:50  
 11:55 **THE</**

**Channel 5** (WISN-TV) is a television station in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, affiliated with the NBC television network. The station is owned by NBCUniversal Media Group LLC. The station's studios are located at 1000 North Lincoln Drive, Suite 1000, in the Lincoln Square building. The station's transmitter is located on the roof of the building at 1000 North Lincoln Drive, Suite 1000. The station's website is [www.wisn.com](http://www.wisn.com).



**Sell a 70cl and Famous Goose 70cl £9.99 each**

# Cracking Xmas Savings

## STAFFORD ROAD OFF LICENCE

**FANTASTIC DECEMBER OFFERS STARTING FROM 3RD DECEMBER - 31ST DECEMBER**  
 Opening 10 am - 10 pm Monday - Sunday



**OFFER OF THE MONTH**  
 Glen's LTR or High Commission LTR BTL  
**£9.99**

**BREAKER 500ml 24 Pack £18.99**

**BUDWISER 500ML 24 PACK £19.99**

### SPIRITS

Baroardi 70cl BTL	£10.99	Glen's Vodka 70cl BTL	£6.99
Baroardi LTR BTL	£13.99	Beilys 70cl BTL	£9.99
Smirnoff 70cl BTL	£5.45	High Commission 70cl BTL	£7.55
Smirnoff LTR BTL	£13.99	Jack Daniels 70cl BTL	£18.99
Teachers 70cl BTL	£8.99	Bols 70cl	£9.99
Teachers LTR BTL	£13.99	Remise Goose 70cl	£9.99

### BEERS

Draught Guinness 440ml	4 Cans £8.99	8 Cans £17.00	24 Pack £20.00
Original Guinness 500ml	4 Cans £8.99	8 Cans £18.50	24 Pack £18.99
Bank's City/Bitter 500ml	4 Cans £9.99	8 Cans £19.00	24 Pack £17.99
Scrumptious Jolly 500ml	4 Cans £9.99	8 Cans £19.00	24 Pack £17.99
Strangbow Super 500ml	4 Cans £9.99	8 Cans £19.00	24 Pack £17.99
St. Cider 600ml	4 Cans £9.99	8 Cans £19.00	24 Pack £18.99
Strangbow 500ml	4 Cans £9.99	8 Cans £19.00	24 Pack £17.99

**Garling 500ml Potale 500ml 4 Cans £25.99 2 Cans £12.99**

**Masonberg 400cl Potale 400cl 4 Cans £25.99 2 Cans £12.99**

**Blossom Hill Red/White £3.99 Each Echo Falls Red/White £3.99 Each Or Any 2 BTLs For £8.99**

**B&J Gallo White Zinfandel White Grenache Blossom Hill White Zinfandel Echo Falls Potale Mix and Match Any 3 BTLs £9.99**

**Halfus Wine two BTLs For £5**

**Stella 500ml 4 Cans £3.99 8 Cans £6.99 24 Pack £17.99**

All major Debit/Credit Cards Accepted/Over 18s Available

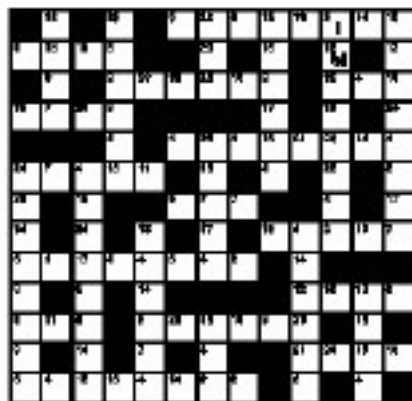


# Brain Gym

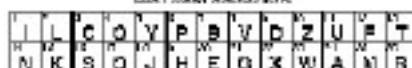
No.096

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LIGHT WORDS: CRYPTOLOGIC



# RainToday?

Don't get caught out in the rain or snow  
Visit [www.RainToday.co.uk](http://www.RainToday.co.uk)

## Double Crossword

Choose either grid one or grid two - both will be the same grid.

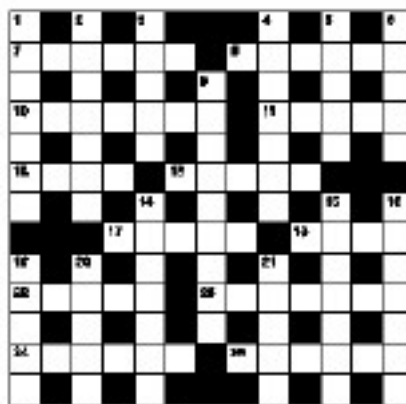
### Cryptic Clues

#### Across

1. Used daily but not an essential (4)
2. A small but not a vegetable (4)
3. A small but not a vegetable (4)
4. A small but not a vegetable (4)
5. A small but not a vegetable (4)
6. A small but not a vegetable (4)
7. A small but not a vegetable (4)
8. A small but not a vegetable (4)
9. A small but not a vegetable (4)
10. A small but not a vegetable (4)
11. A small but not a vegetable (4)
12. A small but not a vegetable (4)
13. A small but not a vegetable (4)

#### Down

1. A small but not a vegetable (4)
2. A small but not a vegetable (4)
3. A small but not a vegetable (4)
4. A small but not a vegetable (4)
5. A small but not a vegetable (4)
6. A small but not a vegetable (4)
7. A small but not a vegetable (4)
8. A small but not a vegetable (4)
9. A small but not a vegetable (4)
10. A small but not a vegetable (4)
11. A small but not a vegetable (4)
12. A small but not a vegetable (4)
13. A small but not a vegetable (4)



LIGHT WORDS: CRYPTOLOGIC  
CRYPTIC: Across 1 (4): 1. A small but not a vegetable (4) 2. A small but not a vegetable (4) 3. A small but not a vegetable (4) 4. A small but not a vegetable (4) 5. A small but not a vegetable (4) 6. A small but not a vegetable (4) 7. A small but not a vegetable (4) 8. A small but not a vegetable (4) 9. A small but not a vegetable (4) 10. A small but not a vegetable (4) 11. A small but not a vegetable (4) 12. A small but not a vegetable (4) 13. A small but not a vegetable (4)

## Sudoku

Fill in the grid with numbers 1-9. Every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.



## Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



SALE STARTS MONDAY, 27th DECEMBER 11am

**JUBILEE CARPETS & FLOORING**  
**BEST-BED-PRICES IN WALSALL**  
A RANGE OF QUALITY BEDS FROM £99 UP TO £599

**BULK PURCHASE!!**



**Roll Stock and Roll Ends**  
**UP TO 75% OFF**

**Real Solid Oak 15mm flooring**  
**DOWN TO 50% OFF**

Unit 2 Walsall Road, Walsall WS9 9AH  
Telephone: 01543 360003  
[www.jubileecarpets-flooring.co.uk](http://www.jubileecarpets-flooring.co.uk)  
**FREE CAR PARK**

**choose & move**  
[www.chooseandmove.co.uk](http://www.chooseandmove.co.uk)



Are you looking for a decent affordable home to rent in the Walsall area?

We would like to wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

Our offices will be closing for a festive break at 1.00 pm on Friday 24th December and will open again at 9.00 am on Thursday 4th January 2011

During the break we will deal with emergency repairs only. Call us on 0300 555 6666

Properties will be advertised as usual until midnight 21st December 2010. Results will be published on Wednesday 22nd December 2010

New properties will open for bids from 9.00 am Thursday 6th January 2011 until midnight Tuesday 11th January 2011. Results will be published on Wednesday 13th January 2011

1. Register - by visiting our website at [www.chooseandmove.co.uk](http://www.chooseandmove.co.uk) visit our property shop in the town centre or call into one of our housing offices for a form.
2. Choose - let us know which properties you are interested in by making a bid before the closing date given on the website or on the advert.
3. View - if you are successful we will arrange for you to view the property and sign the tenancy agreement.

Visit our website at [www.chooseandmove.co.uk](http://www.chooseandmove.co.uk) or phone us on 0300 555 6666 for more information

Adridge and Overhills	Bilston	Central Walsall	Darlaston	Walsall	Blithfield
10 Hulse Court, High Street, Bilston B15 2AA	10 Hulse Court, High Street, Bilston B15 2AA	Property Shop, 10 Hulse Court, Bilston B15 2AA	10 Hulse Court, High Street, Bilston B15 2AA	10 Hulse Court, High Street, Bilston B15 2AA	10 Hulse Court, High Street, Bilston B15 2AA



















# sport



## EDGBASTON IS ALL SET FOR NEW AREA

## We must get the fans back says Byfield

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Cricket fans can see the £30m expansion of Warwickshire's Edgbaston ground, increasing capacity to 25,000, continuing apace.

The playing surface, grown to Warwickshire's specification in a field in Lincolnshire, has been relaid with a new drainage system and permanent floodlights fitted.

The framework for the new stand, which sits between the Eric Hollies Stand and the Priory Stand is also nearly finished. Bosses revealed the naming rights for the new stand would be established in the new year.

Club chief executive Colin Povey said: "We're just coming onto that stage of the development. We will be starting to approach companies in the new year."

The curved shell of the building, which will eventually be coated in silver-coloured aluminium panels, is nearly finished and will expand the seating and media facilities, bringing the stadium into line with the iconic press box at Lord's.

The finished work will feature five new floodlights, offices, shops and apartments at the site. It is set for completion in time for England's Test match against India on August 10 next year.

Phil Macdonald, project director at Edgbaston, said: "The new facilities will be like rugby and football grounds with a covered concourse between the new stand and the Eric Hollies Stand."

### Design

"The new stadium will have the best facilities for media in England with parts of the third and fourth floor for broadcast and print media inside the steel box design which will sit on top of the new stand."

The work will give Warwickshire the best chance to compete for international matches, alongside the new competition from grounds including Durham's Chester-le-Street, Hampshire's Rose Bowl and Glamorgan's Swalec Stadium.

Povey added: "The expansions puts us in a very strong position. We will have the largest capacity for a ground outside London and more than Trent Bridge's 17,000 in Nottingham and the 15,000 capacity at Cardiff, with whom we're effectively competing."

"It should keep Edgbaston on that main roster of Test grounds."

The expansion will not harm the atmosphere Edgbaston has developed in recent years, the most vocal support England receive on home soil.

Mr Povey added: "England win here more often than anywhere else, the players love the noise and the crowds love the fun atmosphere so it's a win-win."

As the project nears completion, lifts stairs and seats will be installed.

Alongside the stadium work, the ground is being fitted with modern drainage to guarantee play by helping the outfield to cope with rain. Permanent floodlights will mean less light spillage from day/night matches for nearby residents and make taking high catches easier for fielders as the bulbs used produce less glare.

The redevelopment is expected to guarantee a place for international cricket in Birmingham and an Ashes match in 2013.

It will feature an "unusually shaped" square structure to house a banqueting suite. The former Calthorpe stand, the old pavilion and the old indoor cricket school were all bulldozed. The stadium has been reconfigured alongside the demolition and still has a capacity of 17,000.

## Pupils packing a powerful punch



Packing a punch - Hydesville Tower pupils Aaron Blick, aged 11, left, Navin Johal, 10, Satya Wunnava, Alex Aldea, and Roop Dhillion, all aged 11, celebrate achieving their black belts with tutor Paul Cicarella.

Five friends from a Walsall school are punching above their weight after earning black belts in karate.

The youngsters, aged 10 and 11, have gained their first Dans at the same time after five years of training.

The Hydesville Tower pupils had to impress with their kicking, punching and techniques during their assessments.

Eleven-year-olds Aaron Blick, Satya Wunnava, Alex Aldea, Roop Dhillion and Navin Johal, aged 10, all passed following the evaluation.

They started training at the school in Broadway North and have since gone

on to classes at the University of Wolverhampton campus in Gorway Road, Walsall.

Sessions take place on Friday nights and Saturday mornings.

The children faced an eight hour assessment at the university recently before finding out they had been successful.

It marked the culmination of hours of practice.

Karate tutor Paul Cicarella praised the friends for their success at such a young age. Mr Cicarella said: "The standard of people going for the black belt is quite high this year. They did

really well, especially for their age as most don't make it that far."

The youngest to have achieved the black belt is Navin, who lives with his family in Willenhall.

He said: "I enjoy it because my friends are there and it is a lot of fun."

"It is my favourite activity along with football. I enjoy the sparring the best and it feels really good to get the black belt," he added.

His mother Jas Johal, aged 39, said: "They have all done very well and we are really proud of them."

"It is a big achievement at such a young age."

Walsall skipper Darren Byfield has admitted the onus is on the Saddlers to get their fans back inside.

Supporters group Unity were due to launch 2,000 balloons to signify how many fans the club have lost since the end of the 2007-08 season.

But the postponement of the home clash with Southampton because of a frozen pitch has put their plans on ice.

The fans have become increasingly frustrated with the Saddlers' season, with the club second bottom of League One, but Byfield insisted it is up to the players to change their minds.

"There's no point saying 'the fans aren't doing this or that' we have to deal with it," he said. "We've got to make it great for them, we can set them off."

"If you're telling yourself 'the fans aren't doing this' it's because we're not doing what we should be doing on the pitch."

"We can ask the fans to be a bit more patient with us but they pay their money and have a right to say what they want."

"We've got to set them off, we've got to give the fans something to shout about."

Byfield is still out with a knee injury but is expected to step up his recovery after an injection this week.

The 34-year-old has been out since September and will be out until the new year but the club are hopeful his time on the sidelines is nearing an end.

## It's looking up for Hardly Athletic

Hardly Athletic are looking up in the Wolverhampton 6 a side Monday league as Jamie Woodhall pulled the strings in a battling 4-2 defeat of Sparkys R Us FC.

Mark Starbuck was influential for The Legends in the Tuesday 6 a side league as he fired home four of his sides eight as Swan Village Crew were unable to reply. Wycombe Wanderers were also big winners, a James Whitehouse hat-trick inspiring a 9-3 defeat of Only Here For The Beer.

Vention Wolves turned up the heat in the Walsall 6 a side Monday Premier Division with a thumping 7-0 victory over Coppice, whilst Bloxwich Youth eased out French & Dean Saunders, 4-0 the final outcome.

Scalers FC are starting to find some form in Division One as Andy Grootcott pulled the strings in a 4-1 triumph over Surreal Madrid, whilst Bayer Neversham hammered Miami Dolphins in the final tier, Joe Davies grabbing five of his sides seven with the latter unable to reply.

Tipton Spurs showed great battling qualities to maintain their healthy lead at the top of the Brierley Hill 6 a side First Division, edging out Pink Gunners 3-2. Rob Peel FC are doing their best to keep in touch after seeing off Pennsett Rejects 2-0.

The Walsall Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Shropshire. Thursday, December, 23, 2010.

CHRISTMAS BARGAINS

# Whatever their age, get 'em hooked this Christmas!

This Christmas 2010

## Up to 50% Off RRP!

Quality Fishing Tackle at jaw-dropping prices!

### MASSIVE

discounts in  
all departments

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

Re-vamped  
store with new  
product lines

## ALLEN'S

FISHING TACKLE

651 Bloxwich Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS3 2BQ

Tel: 01922 407398



WALSALL

YOUR REGULAR  
CHRONICLE IS INSIDE

DECEMBER, 24, 2010

15p when sold

# thechronicle

**EXTRA  
DISCOUNTS**

Off **ALL** Sale Prices

**BOXING DAY**

SAVE  
OVER  
50%

Leather swivel chair  
NORMAL PRICE £779  
SALE PRICE £349

**EXTRA DISCOUNT PRICE £379**

**Cousins**  
**wintersale**

Starts Boxing Day 10am





**HALF  
PRICE**

**EXTRA  
DISCOUNTS**

Off **All Sale Prices**  
**BOXING DAY**

Leather German  
style large sofa

NORMAL PRICE £1499  
SALE PRICE £749

**EXTRA  
DISCOUNT  
PRICE**  
**£749**

## COUSINS WINTER SALE STARTS BOXING DAY 10am

Be early to take advantage of the **EXTRA SALE DISCOUNTS** throughout the store **this Boxing Day** - with many **savings of 50% or more.**

Cousins boast three of the **largest furniture stores in the UK.** Whatever your choice, contemporary or classical, they have inspirational room settings and an unbeatable **massive choice.**

Put that alongside incredibly low sale prices on all products throughout the store including **famous brand names**, and you have the **ultimate shopping experience** for furniture, beds, carpets and accessories.

**PAY NOTHING UNTIL THE SUMMER • NO DEPOSIT • INTEREST FREE**



Velvet table & 4 chairs  
NORMAL PRICE £299 SALE PRICE £299  
**EXTRA DISCOUNT PRICE £289**



4 Seater Chaise longue (includes accessories)  
NORMAL PRICE £699 SALE PRICE £699  
**EXTRA DISCOUNT PRICE £599**







Received 12 October 2004; accepted 12 November 2004

The authors declare that they have no competing interests. All authors equally contributed to the design and implementation of the study, data collection, data analysis, and interpretation of the results. All authors contributed equally and significantly to writing the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.